

Let's Get Acqu

by Ruby Compton
Wave Columnist

"In order to keep the cattle safe, the people of the valley kept them in one group where they could graze while protected by ten men taking turns as guards. Other men drew guard duty from Cliff farm in Daniel Canyon along the ridge to the Lake Creek pass. Each man kept his assignment for seven or eight days."

"About ten or 15 good Indians came in and said they wanted peace. Bishop Joe Murdock

From the writings of Joseph Smith McDonald, youngest son of James and Sarah Ferguson McDonald (of whom I wrote a few weeks ago), I would like to write in his words of a bit of Wasatch Valley history.

"At the time I was twenty four years old, I was enlisted in the United States Army and set apart as a Minute Man. I had to keep the riding horses and saddles in good shape, and plenty of ammunition on hand for use at a minutes notice. The Indians were all gone and the leading men thought they were gathering to make a raid on the settlements."

"A man from Springville was chosen to go out scouting, he was to choose one man to go with him, he chose me. Next day I got notice from Colonel Page to appear in Springville for further orders. The next day we started and we found some Indians who were taking their women east where they would be safe. We were gone seven or eight days. When we got back I told Captain Wall about the trip as the Indians had been giving us a good deal of trouble in Wasatch County, (at that time Wasatch County extended east to the Colorado state line)."



Joseph S. Murdock

came that Chief Tabby was getting ready for trouble, the settlers in the valleys wanted to make peace and Brigham Young ordered 100 head of cattle to be delivered to Chief Tabby."

"Captain William M. Wall was told to choose ten men to accompany him and deliver the cattle to Tabby in person. I was one of the ten men chosen to go. We were told not to come back until the delivery was made. It took three days to get back to where Chief Tabby was at the Indian farm on the Duchesne River and for the interpreter we had sent to get back to us."

"The American Government Agent permitted us to use a two roomed blockhouse across from the one he used, but he was extremely surly with us and called us 'Mormon Dogs.' Late one day

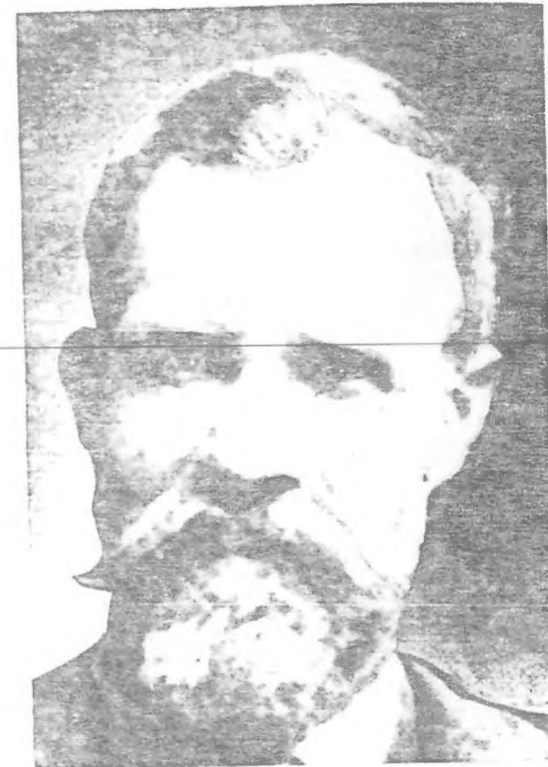
in who kept the store came and said, 'They have started every one of you. I can't see ed for nothing, I think they ack you tomorrow night.

I have all kinds of ition, and as soon as it gets the Agent can't see you, ur men over to pack it back ouse. All I ask is that you f you have to. I have a auger, set your men to port holes for themselves. big 40 gallon barrel, bring is house and fill it with I have a big rope, bore oles through some posts, e rope through after the e set deep and strong; tie rses securely so they e run off.' He wasted no went back to his store." vorked hard all night, and rning after breakfast we y good. The Agent came looked around then said, en, do you know whose is is?' I said, 'Uncle's, I He never answered but

walked around looking through the port holes 'til he came to one, when he looked through it he said, 'G.D. that is straight for my door!' The man who owned the port hole tapped the Agent on the shoulder and said, 'You are the first Indian we intend to kill.' I never saw a man get out of a house as quick and he didn't bother us any more."

"The Indians came into the cedars and made camp next night. Then next morning we saw a messenger come as fast as his horse could run; he came right up to our interpreter and said, 'Tabby is coming in on the charge and says there are ten or 15 Indians painted black, and they are going to shoot as soon as they get close enough. They will not mind me.' Al Huntingfor our interpreter, slapped him on the leg and told him to tell Tabby that if he came in on the run we would commence shooting. Captain Wall asked Hunting why he sent that message and he said if they came on the run some of them would shoot. In 15 or 20 minutes they formed a line with Tabby to the left and they came in on the walk. They surrounded the Agent's house and Tabby dismounted and went in. Captain Wall said, 'I must know what is going on in that house. Lieutenant McDonald, you pick a man and stand in this door and don't let a white man out, or a red man in.' There was some excitement as the men took his position at his port hole, ready for action."

"Captain Wall went to tell Tabby that Brigham Young had sent him to bring 100 head of beef to make peace and talk over the trouble, and that we had to give we said brin Wa

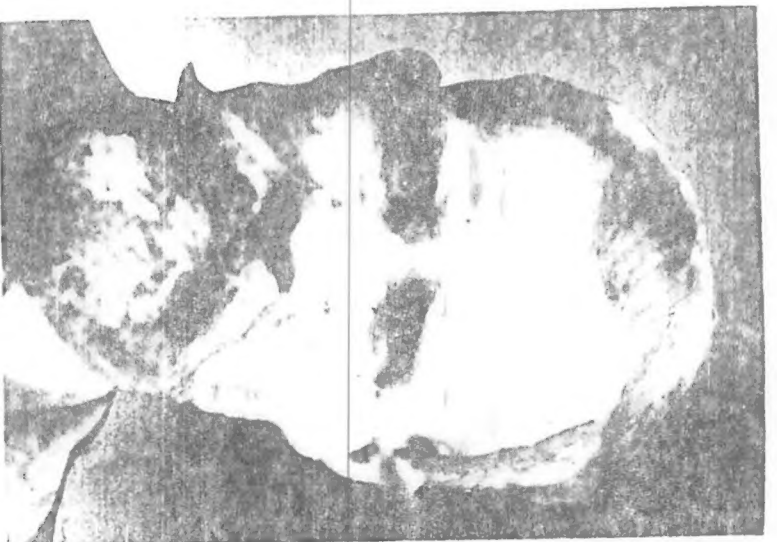


Joseph S. McDonald

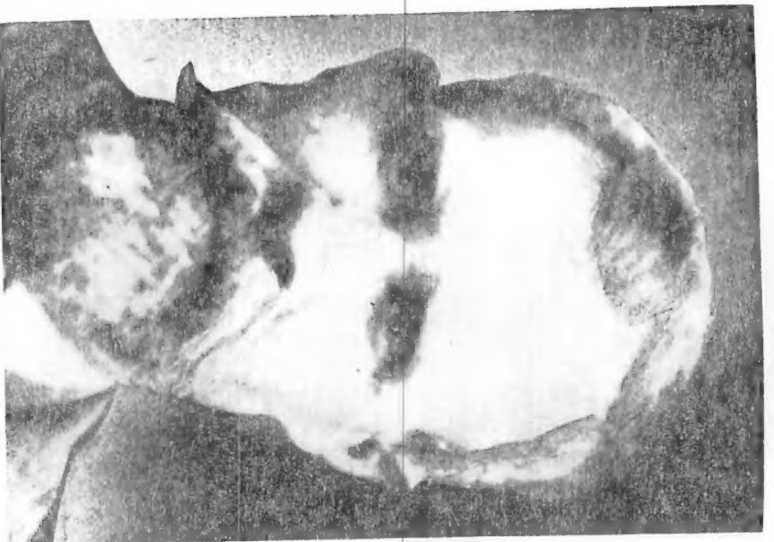
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(2) Mary M. McDonald
Buysville



Joseph S. McDonald



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